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26 minimize the adverse impacts of water supply shortage during drought or other  
27 emergency water supply conditions; and

28 **WHEREAS**, the adoption and periodic update of a Drought Contingency  
29 Plan (DCP) is a requirement of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality,  
30 and this plan was updated in 2019 incorporating applicable revisions to the City's  
31 Water Conservation Code; and

32 **WHEREAS**, this document provides triggers for the initiation of Drought  
33 Stages associated with changes in storage levels; and

34 **WHEREAS**, during the years between 2008 and 2016, Central Texas  
35 experienced a drought so severe that storage levels of the Highland Lakes, the  
36 City's primary source of drinking water, were as low as 37 percent; and

37 **WHEREAS**, this drought is now recognized by the LCRA as a drought  
38 worse than the 1950s drought of record; and

39 **WHEREAS**, Katharine Hayhoe, renowned climatologist and atmospheric  
40 scientist produced a report for the City of Austin in 2014, Climate Change  
41 Projections for the City of Austin, used local data to predict, based on historical  
42 patterns, that areas such as the U.S. Southwest are projected to become drier while  
43 drought conditions in summer are likely to become more severe as global  
44 temperature increases; and

45 **WHEREAS**, in 2014 the City Council adopted Resolution No. 20140410-  
46 033 creating the Austin Water Resource Planning Task Force to evaluate the City's  
47 water needs, to examine and make recommendations regarding future water  
48 planning, and to evaluate potential water resource management scenarios for  
49 Council consideration; and

50           **WHEREAS**, among the key recommendations of the Water Resource  
51 Planning Task Force was the development of an Integrated Water Resource Plan  
52 (IWRP) with substantial and meaningful public participation and outside  
53 consultants to develop water/energy efficiency, reuse and decentralization  
54 strategies; and

55           **WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 20141211-119 created the Water Resource  
56 Planning Task Force to support the Integrated Water Resource Plan with  
57 representation from a broad array of usage sectors and with significant expertise in  
58 water efficiency and innovation—this Task Force became known as the Water  
59 Forward Task Force; and

60           **WHEREAS**, in 2018 the Council adopted “Water Forward: An Integrated  
61 Water Resource Plan” in November of 2018; and

62           **WHEREAS**, the Water Forward Integrated Water Resource Plan is the  
63 culmination of over three years of effort by the task force, staff, and consultants,  
64 and it represents a transformational plan for Austin that will guide Austin’s water  
65 future for the one hundred years; and

66           **WHEREAS**, the Water Forward Plan models potential climate change  
67 effects on Austin’s water supplies and rapid population growth and evaluates  
68 multiple future scenarios to plan for droughts worse than what we have  
69 experienced in the past and recommends a suite of strategies that include both  
70 major water supply projects and incremental solutions to augment Austin’s access  
71 to water during drought when our core surface water supplies are severely limited;  
72 and

73           **WHEREAS**, upon adoption in 2018 the plan identifies multiple strategies  
74 with a 5-year implementation horizon, including

- Alternative water ordinance for new larger commercial and multifamily development
- Dual plumbing ordinance for new larger commercial and multifamily development
- Expansion of current reclaimed water system connection requirements
- Water benchmarking and budgeting for new development
- Monitor existing ordinances related to air conditioning condensate reuse and cooling tower and steam boiler efficiency
- Expand alternative water incentive program
- Expand landscape transformation incentive program
- Expand irrigation efficiency incentive program
- Study and begin design, construction, and testing of an Aquifer Storage and Recovery pilot
- Implement Advanced Metering Infrastructure
- Enhance utility water loss reduction program
- Expand the centralized reclaimed water system
- Explore community-scale decentralized reclaimed water options
- Refinement of Indirect Potable Reuse strategy
- Refinement of Capture Lady Bird Lake Inflows strategy

- 94           • Begin preliminary analyses to support five-year Water Forward plan  
95           update; and

96           **WHEREAS**, several of the above strategies have been implemented by staff  
97           and approved by Council, but others were proposed during the Land Development  
98           Code Revision Process, which has been stalled due to litigation for over a year; and

99           **WHEREAS**, according to a 2021 report by the National Oceanic and  
100           Atmospheric Association, “drier conditions in the Southwest U.S. associated with  
101           La Niña and the failed 2020 summer monsoon have been contributing factors to  
102           the development and intensification of what represents the most significant U.S.  
103           spring drought since 2013, which will impact approximately 74 million people; “  
104           and

105           **WHEREAS**, according to Mary Erickson, deputy director of the National  
106           Weather Service, the Southwest U.S., which is already experiencing widespread  
107           severe to exceptional drought, will remain the hardest hit region in the U.S., and  
108           water supply will continue to be a concern this spring in these drought-affected  
109           areas;" and

110           **WHEREAS**, LCRA manages the Highland Lakes, including its water  
111           supply reservoirs lakes Travis and Buchanan, and current storage reservoir levels  
112           of Lakes Buchanan and Travis stand at 88 and 60 percent respectively; **NOW**  
113           **THEREFORE**,

114           **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

115           That the City Manager is directed to immediately consult with Austin Water  
116           staff and seek input from the Water Forward Task Force regarding the  
117           implementation of the below strategies of the Water Forward Plan to ensure the

most comprehensive diversification of our water supply and conservation portfolio  
to prepare for impending future population growth and drought conditions:

- Dual plumbing ordinance for new larger commercial and multifamily development
- Expansion of current reclaimed water system connection requirements
- Water benchmarking and budgeting for new development
- Landscape transformation ordinances and incentive programs
- Irrigation efficiency and incentive program;

**ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2021    **ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Jannette S. Goodall  
City Clerk